

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 15, as follows:

A further optical disc according to the present invention has a plurality of recording layers with each recording layer read by a read beam incident thereto from the same side of the disc. A drive information area for recording drive information is provided on at least one of ~~said~~ the plurality of layers, and an unrecorded blank area is provided in the other recording layers at the same radial position as the drive information area.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5, as follows:

~~Thus~~Thus, reusing the recording/playback conditions recorded in the drive information area of the data recording medium simplifies the learning process. As a result, less time is needed to complete the learning process, and the data recording and playback apparatus thus spends less time waiting before recording or playback can begin.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 5, as follows:

Whether sector number m is greater than the maximum sector number m_{\max} is then determined (step S9). In this ~~example~~ example, maximum sector number m_{\max} is 32. If sector number m is less than or equal to m_{\max} , the procedure loops back to step S6 and steps S7 and S8 repeat. If sector number m is greater than m_{\max} , control goes to step S10.